

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo**  
**Friday, November 13, 2015**

**Notes from Commissioner Wagner**

1. RIDE to release [PARCC results](#) on Tuesday
2. [Partnership Opportunity](#) for PTECH, an Innovative Secondary and Career Readiness Program

**From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE)**

***Data Use:***

3. RIDE, Postsecondary Office to award grants to support [data research](#), partnerships

***Assessments:***

4. PARCC Results [Release](#): Information and Resources

***Finance:***

5. [Funding Formula](#) Working Group to meet **Monday**

***Accelerating School Performance:***

6. Notice of Intent: Expanding Advanced [Coursework](#) Opportunities

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## Action Item Calendar

**Today** (November 13): [Graduating class](#), at-home, nonclassified

**Today** (November 13): [At-Home Instructed](#) Students

**Today** (November 13): [Non-Certified Staff](#) Report

**Monday** (November 16): [Graduates, Retentions, and Dropout Reporting SY 14-15 reports - Due](#)

**Monday** (November 16): [Summer Exits SY 15-16 report - Due](#)

December 4: [Textbooks](#) reimbursement forms due

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## Notes from Commissioner Wagner

### 1. RIDE to release PARCC results on Tuesday

We hope you have found the PARCC release preparation meetings helpful and informative. As you continue to review the 2015 PARCC results for your LEA, we want to remind you of the schedule for release of statewide PARCC results.

On **Monday** (November 16), we will hold a briefing for media, at which we will provide media with statewide data and well as results for each school and LEA. This material will be strictly embargoed until Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. You may expect to receive calls from media following the briefing on Monday. Whether you discuss PARCC results with the media will be your decision, but any publication or broadcast will be embargoed until Tuesday.

On **Tuesday** (November 17), we will send the report on results and the news release to all media at about 11:00 a.m.

Again, these materials will be embargoed until 1:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., we will post the results on our website and hold a news conference at

RIDE at which I will announce the release of PARCC results, discuss some of the highlights, and respond to media questions. As noted in last week's Field Memo, we have scheduled a number of follow-up meetings as well to ensure that we use PARCC results to help us focus on teaching and learning. Thank you for working in partnership with us as we prepared for the release. As we have noted many times, these results represent a new starting point for us – a baseline from which we can measure future progress and success.

## **2. Partnership Opportunity for Innovative Secondary and Career Readiness Program**

[P-TECH is](#) an innovative education model that integrates high school, college, and career training. Through a seamless six year experience, students earn a high school diploma and industry-recognized associate's degree at no cost to the student. The P-TECH model prepares students for high-wage, high-potential jobs in a growing market or a four-year postsecondary-education institution, and P-TECH graduates are offered a guaranteed interview with the school's industry partner. [Learn more about the model from this recent news article.](#)

The RI Commerce Corporation and RIDE are looking for schools or communities to partner with us for during the launch of this initiative. Please consider whether this model might work for your community alone or in collaboration with other school districts in your region. The following requirements for a P-TECH program may help you decide if it is right for your community: a willingness to host a cohort of between 50 and 100 9<sup>th</sup> graders and add a cohort of the same size for each subsequent year; a willingness to restructure budgets to provide a sustainable future for the P-TECH program beyond some potential funding for initial planning and implementation; and a commitment to a collaborative governance model for the P-TECH program with post-secondary-education and industry partners. Interested communities

should contact Dan Sutton, P-TECH Manager at the Commerce Corporation at [daniel.sutton@commerceri.com](mailto:daniel.sutton@commerceri.com).

## **From RIDE**

### ***Data Use:***

### **3. RIDE, Postsecondary Office to award grants to support data research, partnerships**

RIDE and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner are pleased to announce a round of mini-grants to support outstanding research that investigates and leads to new directions in policy and practice aimed at promoting the well-being of children and youth, their families, and their communities while fostering long-term, policy-relevant research collaborations between state agencies and the Rhode Island longitudinal-data system. The total amount of funds available is \$150,000, which will support 10 to 15 grant awards.

Applicants are encouraged to include at least one collaborative partnership and the applications must be based on the research questions developed by the Rhode Island Data Sharing Advisory Council. A list of these questions is included at the end of the RFP. More information about the RI Data Sharing project is available at [ridatasharing.org](http://ridatasharing.org).

There will be an open question period for prospective applicants. Questions must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Responses will be posted by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2015, at [ridatasharing.org](http://ridatasharing.org). Questions must be submitted electronically to: [research@ridatasharing.org](mailto:research@ridatasharing.org) with the subject line "Joint Research Initiative Mini-Grant Questions."

## ***Assessments:***

### **4. PARCC Results Release: Information and Resources**

In anticipation of the PARCC results release on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, the Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum is providing the following resources and information:

- Public Results Reports available 11/17:  
<https://iss.ride.ri.gov/AssessmentResults>
- PARCC results available on the Instructional Support System 11/17, accessed through RIDEmap: <https://ridemap.ride.ri.gov>
- Webinars for Teacher or Administrators on PARCC score reports here: (click on PARCC Scoring and Results) [PARCC Reports Webinar and PowerPoints](#)
- Support materials are available on the District Exchange Public folder including:
  - PARCC Reports: Teacher Quick Start Guide
  - Preparing for PARCC Results\_ Workshop Materials
    - Administrator, Parent (Spanish and English) and Teacher Toolkits
    - Communication Planning Tool
    - Preparing for PARCC Results PowerPoint
  - **Nov. 2015 PARCC Results Release Briefing Materials**
    - PowerPoint template for local results release \*
    - Excel graph templates for PARCC results\*

- PARCC data files review document
- Published report guidance document
- Score report interpretation guide

***\*Important Update: Updated slides with small changes in high school results***

- The following support materials are also available via Avocet:
  - [PARCC Published Report Guidance document](#)
  - [PARCC Score Report Interpretation Guide for Parents](#)
  - [PARCC Reporting training module](#)
  - [“Understand the score” website](#):
  - [PARCC released items](#):
  - [Blank] student report shells available in other languages:
    - [Arabic student report shell](#)
    - [Chinese student report shell](#)
    - [Haitian Creole student report shell](#)
    - [Marshallese student report shell](#)
    - [Navajo student report shell](#)
    - [Polish student report shell](#)
    - [Portuguese student report shell](#)
    - [Somali student report shell](#)
    - [Spanish student report shell](#)
    - [Vietnamese student report shell](#)

**Upcoming dates:**

- **Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**: Pearson will begin mailing hard copies of high school student reports
- **Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm**: Commissioner Wagner holds press conference. Public and student-level results

embargo lifted. Public report website and Instructional Support System is live with PARCC results.

- **November 23<sup>rd</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>**: RIDE will deliver a parent letter and report shell for non-participants to LEAs.
- **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**: Pearson will begin mailing hard copies of grades 3-8 student reports.
- **December**: PARCC Data workshops held. Registration at [www.eride.ri.gov](http://www.eride.ri.gov). Search for “PARCC Data Analysis Workshop for District & School” for dates and times.

### ***Finance:***

#### **5. Funding Formula Working Group to meet Monday**

Governor Raimondo’s Working Group to review the Funding Formula for aid to education will meet for the second time on **Monday** (November 16), at the New England Institute of Technology, Room S330, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1 New England Tech Blvd., East Greenwich, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this session will be to discuss Charter/LEA Differences.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting details, materials, and public comment sign-up information are available [online](#). You can also follow the process on Twitter, at #edfundingRI.

### ***Accelerating School Performance:***

#### **6. Notice of Intent: Expanding Advanced Coursework Opportunities**

**SUMMARY:** Beginning in fall 2016, Rhode Island public secondary schools will have the opportunity to expand the advanced level coursework available to their high school and middle school students through a new initiative, the Advanced Coursework Network. This initiative is intended to build upon the work that many of you have already done in this area. Enriching experiences with advanced coursework help students get a head start on post-secondary success, master the skills required of a lifelong learner, and be prepared for jobs in sectors critical to Rhode Island's future prosperity. However, LEA and school ability to offer a wide variety of advanced coursework to meet the diversity of needs for all students is often limited by time and resources. The Advanced Coursework Network is designed to help districts and schools meet this need by creating opportunities for Rhode Island students to envision, pursue and realize their individualized graduation pathway. As Network Members, schools and districts will enable students and their families to choose to enroll in formerly unavailable high value academic- and career-focused courses while they remain enrolled at their public school at no cost to the school, district or family.

Districts and schools will have the option of joining the Network as Network Providers, in which they extend existing or new courses to students from other LEAs and/or as Network Members, in which they allow their students to enroll in coursework offered by the Network.

High school courses will be offered in various modalities and middle school courses will be offered in virtual delivery methods to encourage the greatest participation from students in schools and districts that have chosen to participate in the initiative in its first year. RIDE anticipates the course offerings will include advanced science and mathematics courses, as well as Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>), world languages, career-focused and dual/concurrent enrollment courses. Coursework will be offered by Rhode Island LEAs, Community-Based Organizations and Institutions of Higher Education.



Beginning as early as December 2015, Superintendents and LEA leaders will be able to join as a Network Member. Information on how to become a Network Provider will be available shortly. Please save **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m., and Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m.** for an informational Webinar. Webinar registration details will be shared the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**INVITATION TO COMMENT:** RIDE invites your comments on this new program to ensure that all considerations are made in the pilot year's implementation. **Please submit all comments no later than November 27, 2015.** The following are some questions intended to guide your comments:

1. The goal of the Network is to provide advanced opportunities for Rhode Island students in coordination with other initiative already in place to support this work. Based on your existing coursework, student interest or unmet needs, what type of coursework would you prefer to see offered in this Network?
2. Once offered, would you prefer to select certain coursework and modalities from the Network to make available to your students or would you allow your students to choose from the entire Network of courses (which have been vetted by RIDE and a Network Provider Review Team)?
3. If you are interested in providing your students with this opportunity, when is the latest that you would be willing and able to introduce this Network to your students for fall 2016 coursework? Please keep in mind this will be an optional program for LEAs and thus not mandatory to introduce at all.
4. RIDE is aware that logistical and other elements of this program will require administration accommodation and are working to address any necessary policy or guidance for schools that choose

to be Network Providers and/or Network Members. While RIDE has an extensive list of considerations, we hope to get your thoughts to avoid anything being overlooked. What scheduling and logistical considerations would you like incorporated into the launch of this Network?

5. Would you be interested in extending course offerings at your school to other students across Rhode Island (Becoming a Network Provider) in exchange for a student tuition rate payment from the State?

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Address all comments about the intent to offer this program to Steve Osborn, Chief, Division of Accelerating School Performance, Rhode Island Department of Education, by email, [stephen.osborn@ride.ri.gov](mailto:stephen.osborn@ride.ri.gov) or by phone, 401-222-8485.

***RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:***

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/FieldMemos.aspx>